

FBC  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
FURMAN AKA

GAMMA21

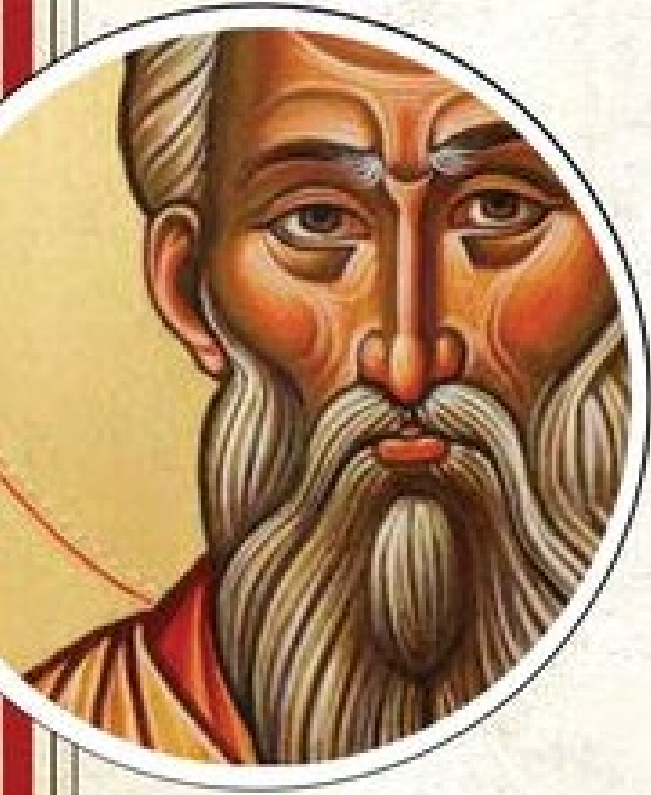
BOOK OF  
**JAMES**  
A FAITH THAT WORKS

**Study 8**

Faith without Works is Dead

James 2:14-26

GAMMA  
SERIES



# PAUL VS. JAMES



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WHAT WE'VE BEEN MISSING IN THE  
FAITH AND WORKS DEBATE

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AN 8-DAY STUDY

# APPARENT CONTRADICTION

James 2:24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Romans 3:28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

# BOTH REFERENCE ABRAHAM

James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

Romans 4:3-5 (ESV) Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” 4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

A wide-angle photograph of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy, taken from a distance across a bridge. The central dome is the most prominent feature, with its intricate ribbed structure and lantern. The facade is classical, featuring a portico with Corinthian columns and a pediment. The sky is overcast. In the foreground, a stone bridge with arches is visible, and a crowd of people can be seen on the bridge. To the right, there are lush green trees. A yellow rectangular box is superimposed over the middle of the image, containing the text "Faith and Good Works".

**Faith and Good Works**



**RIGHTEOUSNESS IS  
INCREASED BY GOOD  
WORKS**

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CANON 24

*If anyone says that the justice (righteousness) received is not preserved and also not increased before God through good works but that those works are merely the fruits and signs of justification obtained, but not the cause of the increase, let him be anathema.*



**JUSTIFICATION  
DOES NOT REMOVE  
ALL GUILT..**

## **ROMAN CATHOLIC CANON 30**

**If anyone says that after the reception of the grace of justification the guilt is so remitted and the debt of eternal punishment so blotted out to every repentant sinner, that no debt of temporal punishment remains to be discharged either in this world[131] or in purgatory before the gates of heaven can be opened,[132] let him be anathema.**



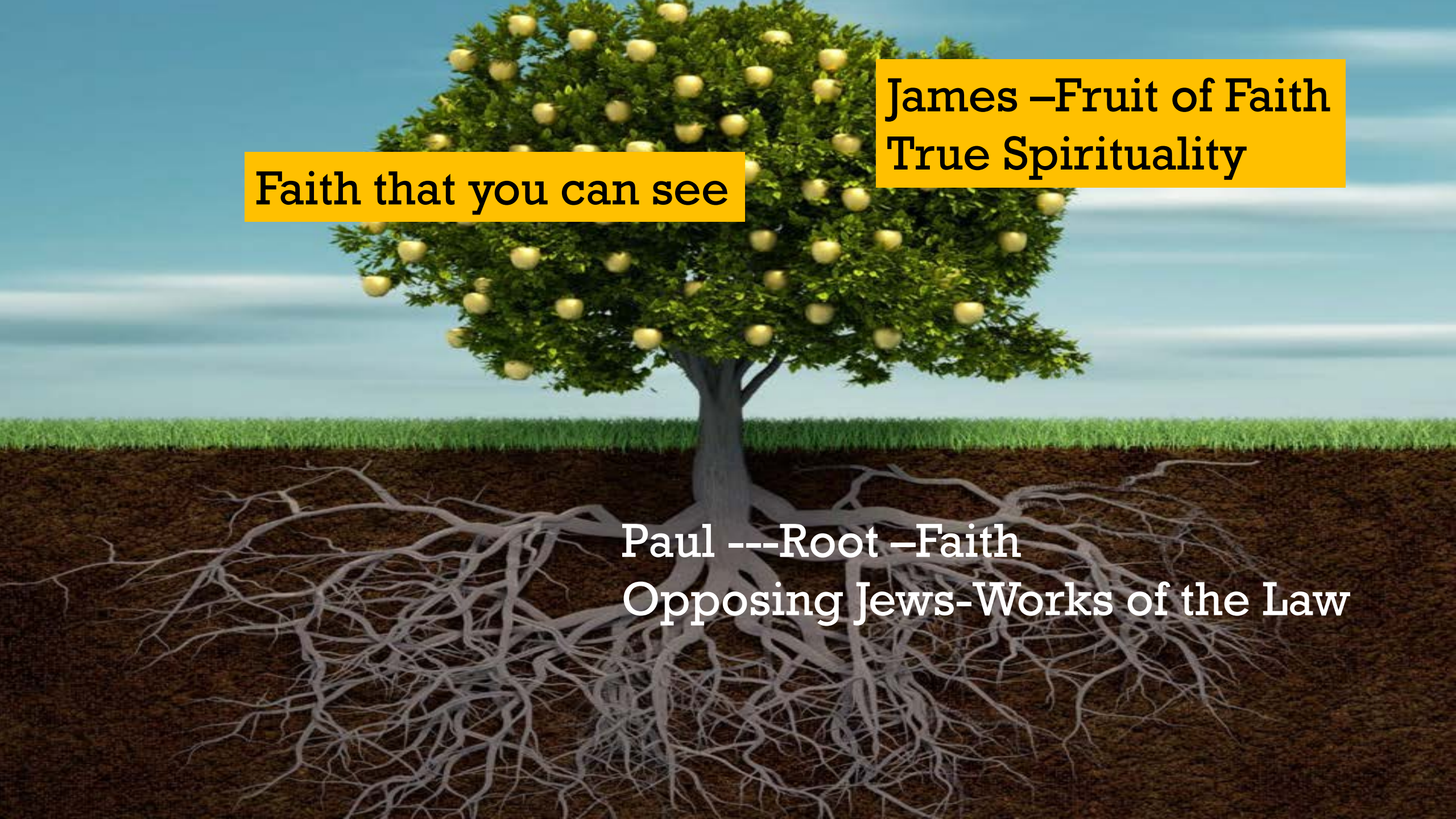
## **5 SOLA'S**

- 1) Soli Deo Gloria-Glory of God alone
- 2) Sola Scriptura-Scripture alone
- 3) Solus Christus-Christ alone
- 4) Sola Gratia-Grace alone
- 5) Sola Fide-Faith alone





**DIFFERENT AUTHORS**  
**DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES**



Faith that you can see

James - Fruit of Faith  
True Spirituality

Paul ---Root - Faith  
Opposing Jews - Works of the Law

# USE OF WORDS SEMANTICS

**Univocal**

One meaning all the time

“tasty” breakfast and  
“tasty” desert

**Equivocal**

Two or more meanings

Bark – tree of dog

**Analogical**

Partly the same and partly different

God is good,  
Grapes are good

**NUT**



**Equivocal**

# **EQUIVOCAL USES OF THREE MAIN WORDS**

*justify, faith, and works*

**JUSTIFY**



Paul

Divine perspective

Made right in the eyes of God

James

Proven right in the eyes of man

*Demonstrating*

*Vindicating a claim*

# JUSTIFY



Paul

Made right in the eyes of God

Romans 4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

James

Proven right in the eyes of man

*proving, demonstrating, or vindicating a claim*

~~James 2:24 (ESV) But someone will say, "You are justified by works."~~ **Show me your faith alone** from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

## USE OF WORD JUSTIFY

Matthew 11:19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

Proven right



# GOD

# JUSTIFICATION

Paul  
man's relationship with God



James  
man's relationship with the world



# FAITH



Paul

Genuine saving faith in God

Romans 4:5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

James

Professing faith in the eyes of man

James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

## DISCUSSING AUTHENTIC FAITH

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.



Authentic faith will hold fast to the Word

# GOD

# FAITH

Paul  
Saving Faith  
man's relationship with God



James  
Professing faith -man's relationship with the world

# WORKS



Paul

Works of the Law—towards God

Romans 3:20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

James

Works (Evidence) of Faith...towards man

James 2:20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

# GOD

# WORKS

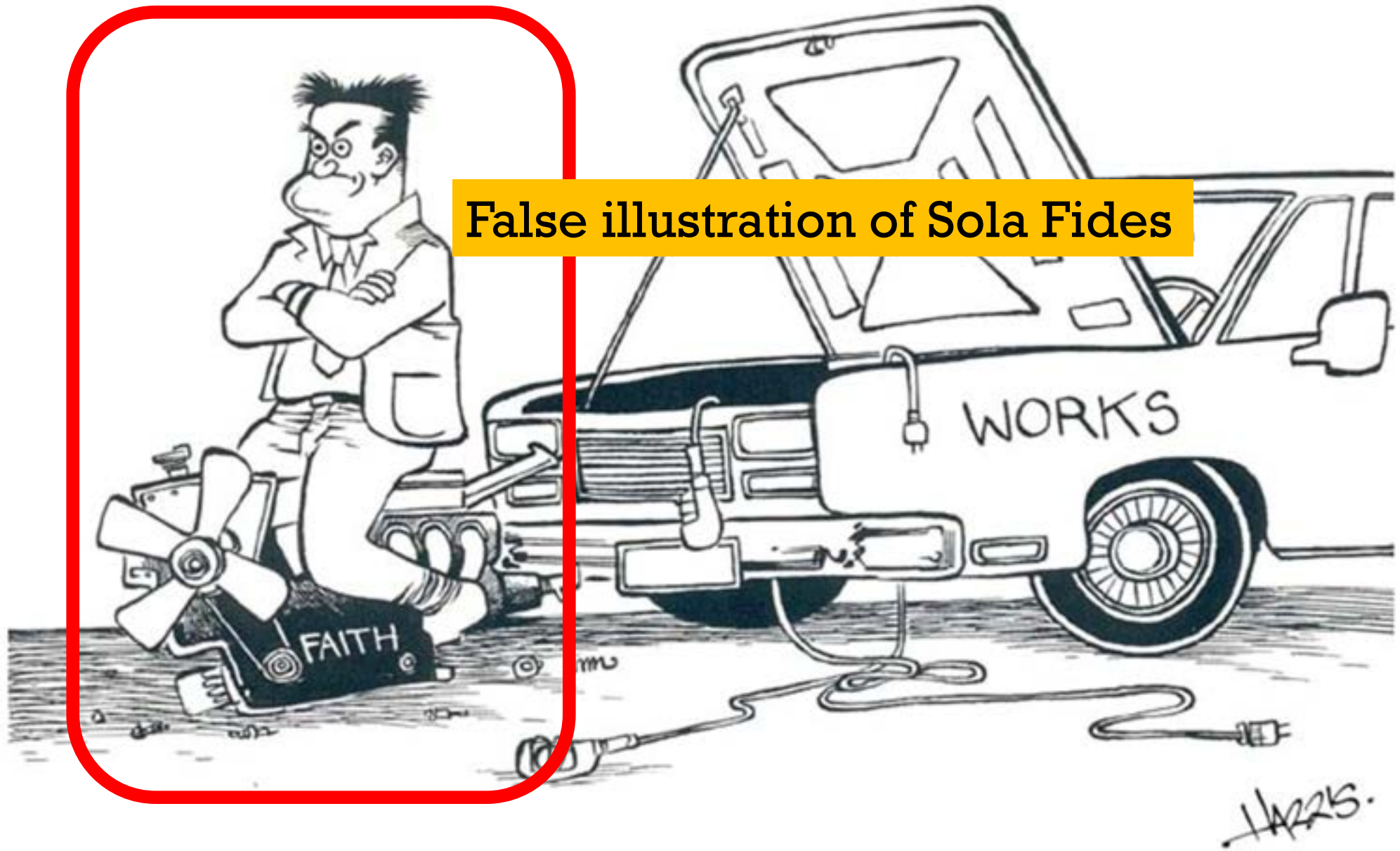
Paul  
Works of the Law to gain salvation  
man's relationship with God



James  
Works that provide evidence of true faith-man's relationship with the world



**False illustration of Sola Fides**



SOLA FIDES

HARRIS.

A man in a dark suit is pushing a large, dark, textured boulder up a rocky hill. The scene is set against a dramatic sunset sky with warm orange and yellow tones. The sun is visible on the right side of the frame, casting a glow over the landscape. The man is leaning forward, using his hands to push the boulder. The overall mood is one of struggle and perseverance.

# **PAUL WORKS OF THE LAW**



## **SAVED BY FAITH AND NOT WORKS**

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

# **WORKS ARE EVIDENCE OF AUTHENTIC FAITH**

James 2:14-15 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food



## Paul

Romans 3:28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Justified :-Pronounced righteous in the sight of God

Shows how unbeliever becomes a Christian

Emphasis: Root of salvation

Stresses inward disposition

Demonstrates God's part with human participation

## James

James 2:24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Use justified to mean proved righteous in the sight of others

Shows how believer lives as a Christian

Emphasis: Fruit of salvation

Stresses outward action

Demonstrates human part with God's help



# AUTHENTIC FAITH

# THE MAIN ISSUE

James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

It is the professed faith ..is it genuine? Or fake?

James 2:15-17 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Real faith



Fake faith

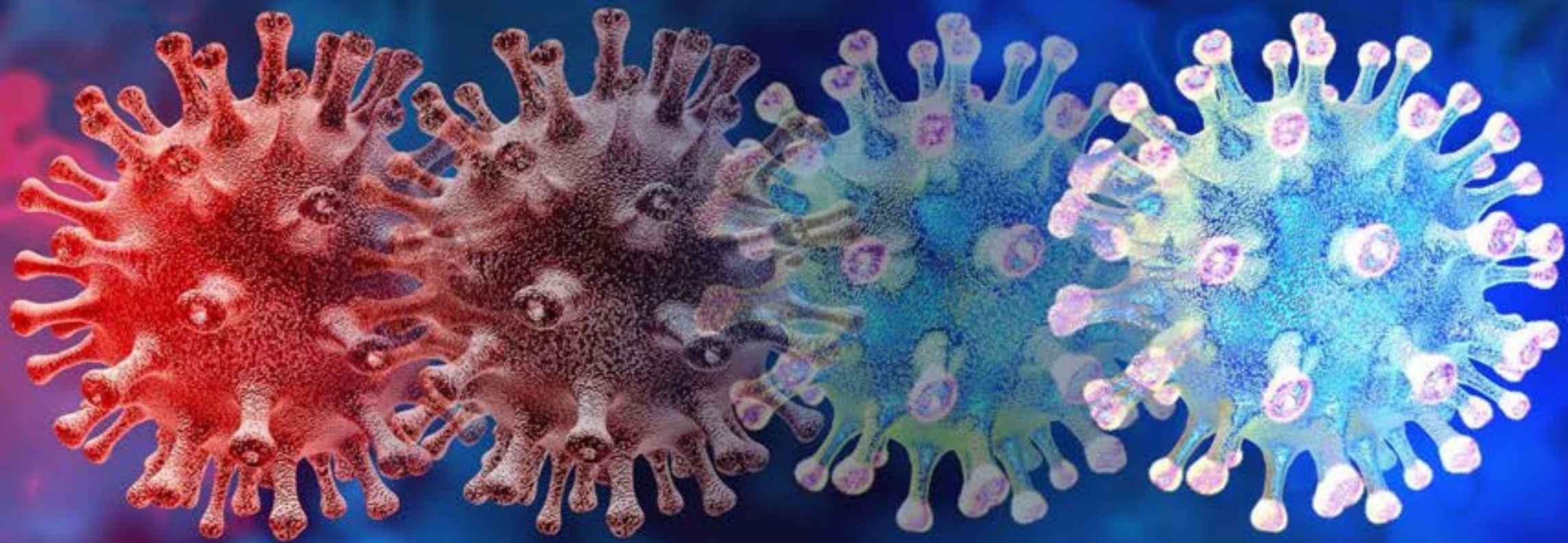




# **SHOW ME**

**Faith evidenced  
by Works**

**Faith without  
Works**





## SYMPTOMATIC COVID



## ASSYMPTOMATIC



## **JAMES SAYS**

Does not exist –or  
functionally dead  
Cannot save you

**Faith evidenced  
by Works**

**Faith without  
Works**

# THE ISSUE

**Authenticity of  
the faith**

The nature and  
characteristic of  
genuine faith

**Supplement to  
the faith**

Insufficiency of faith

**FAITH IS INVISIBLE LIKE  
THE CALORIES**



**YOU CANNOT SEE CALORIES BUT SEE THEIR EFFECTS**





## **SAME ARGUMENT**

James 1:22-23 (ESV) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.

# FAITH THAT WORKS



James 2:18 But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

# PROFESSED FAITH



**FAKE FAITH**

# PROFESSED FAITH AUTHENTICATED BY WORKS



# **FAKE FAITH IS MERELY INTELLECTUAL**

James 2:19-20 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?



# FALLEN ANGELS



# **EMOTIONAL RESPONSE**

**GOD AT ARMS LENGTH--SHUDDERING**

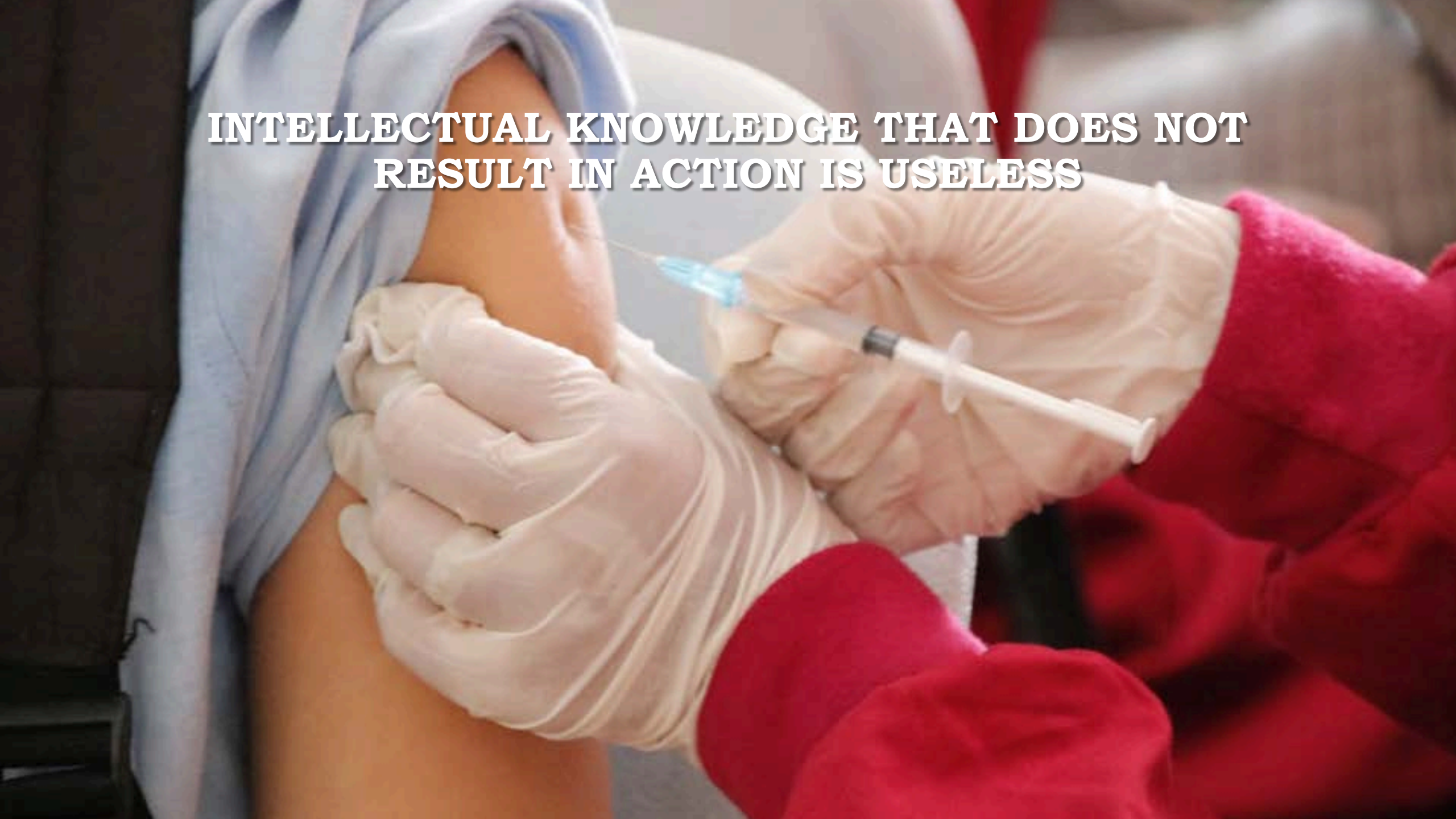


Russia's mass attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure, military infrastructure and communications were "in response" to what he alone claimed to be Ukraine's acts 12/10/22 of terrorism

They are more aware of God's power and beauty than mere mortals who are arrogant in their ignorance



**INTELLECTUAL KNOWLEDGE THAT DOES NOT  
RESULT IN ACTION IS USELESS**



Shuddering -Guilt Response –





Our Great Company  
Response - shuddering to guilt

1865

DATE Dec. 25, 2011

64-51234  
100

PAY  
TO THE  
ORDER OF

The Salvation Army

\$ 15,500.00

Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred

DOLLAR

THE BANK

# SHUDDERING-EMOTION

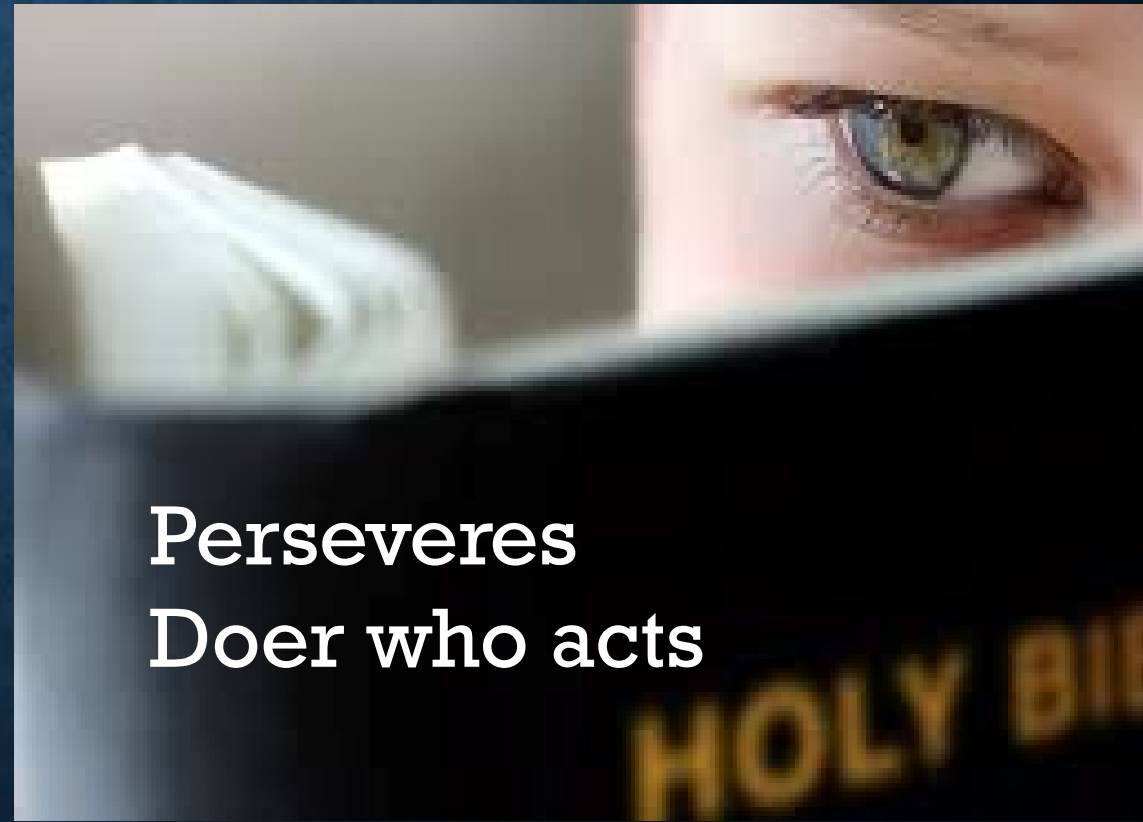


# MIRROR ANALOGY

Shuddering



Look at perfect law

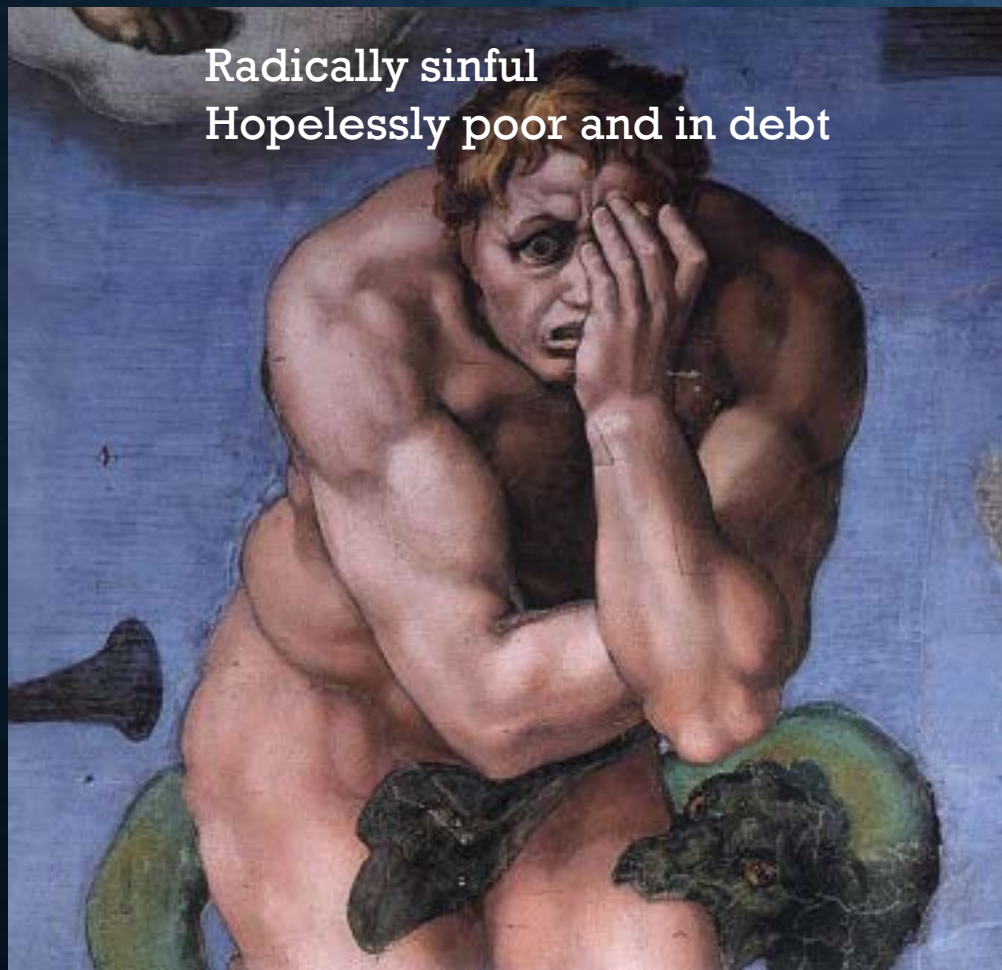


Perseveres

Doer who acts

# HOW POOR WE ARE TOO

Radically exalted



Radically sinful  
Hopelessly poor and in debt



What Jesus did for us

James 2:21-23 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?  
22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”— and he was called a friend of God.

Genesis 15:6 “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” —

Already justified in eyes of God



> 30 years

Genesis 22:12 He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

Faith Vindicated -Authenticated







## FRIEND OF GOD

- True faith wants friendship with God
- False faith – shuddering-fear-awesome power
- True faith has love
- He saw the grace and love of God--

**PSALM 27:4**  
**DAVID**

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD

all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

# SHUDDERING DUTY

Holy and Just  
God  
Abraham  
owed debt of  
sin

Willing to go

I can do this  
I can do this



# LOVE

Merciful ,  
gracious and  
loving

Able to go  
He can do this  
He will provide  
I don't know  
how

## FAITH AUTHENTICATED

James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

Genesis 22:12 He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

## **RAHAB**

James 2:24-26 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.



Man

Jew

Man of Faith

Heard from God

Father of Israel

**ABRAHAM**



Woman

Caananite

Prostitute

Hear about God

Jesus Ancestor

**RAHAB**



Faith is authenticated by works

## HEBREWS



Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son,

Hebrews 11:31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

# LIVING FAITH OR NO FAITH

Faith is authenticated by works



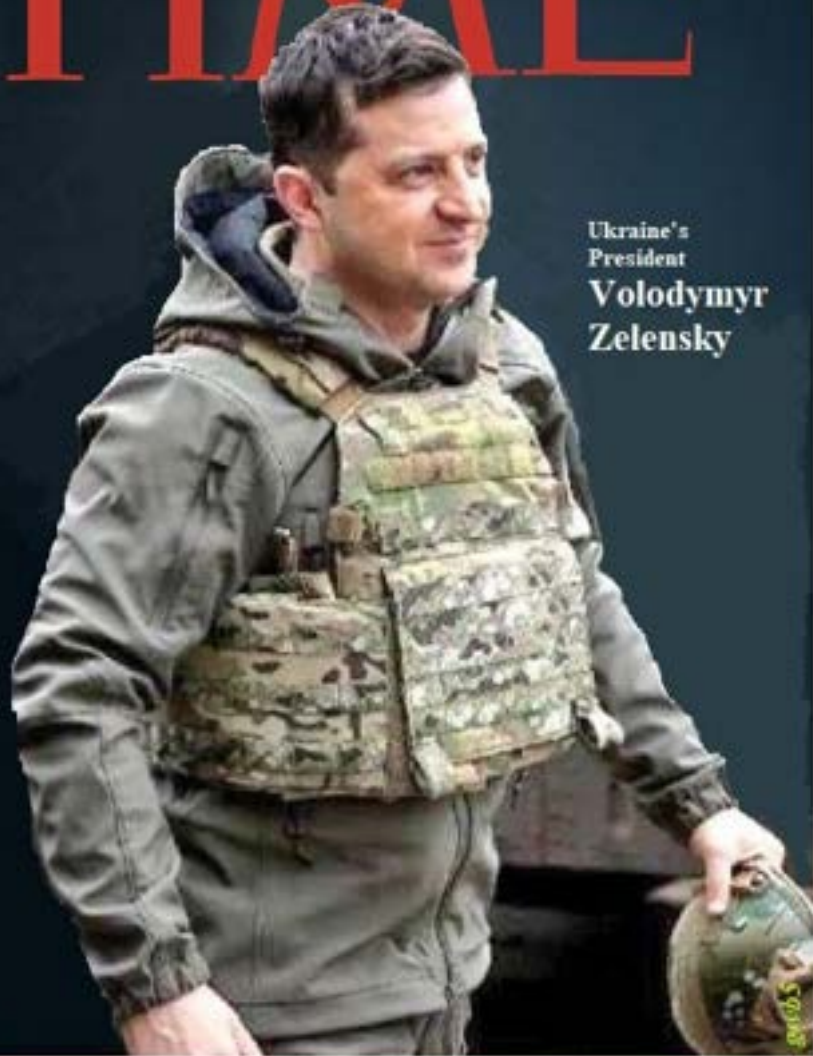
James 2:26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Action speaks louder than words





# Person of the Year TIME



Ukraine's  
President  
Volodymyr  
Zelensky

*The fight is here: I need  
ammunition, not a ride*

*This might be the last time  
you see me alive*

# NO WORKS

Believer



Repent and get back on path of spiritual life and growth

Non Believer

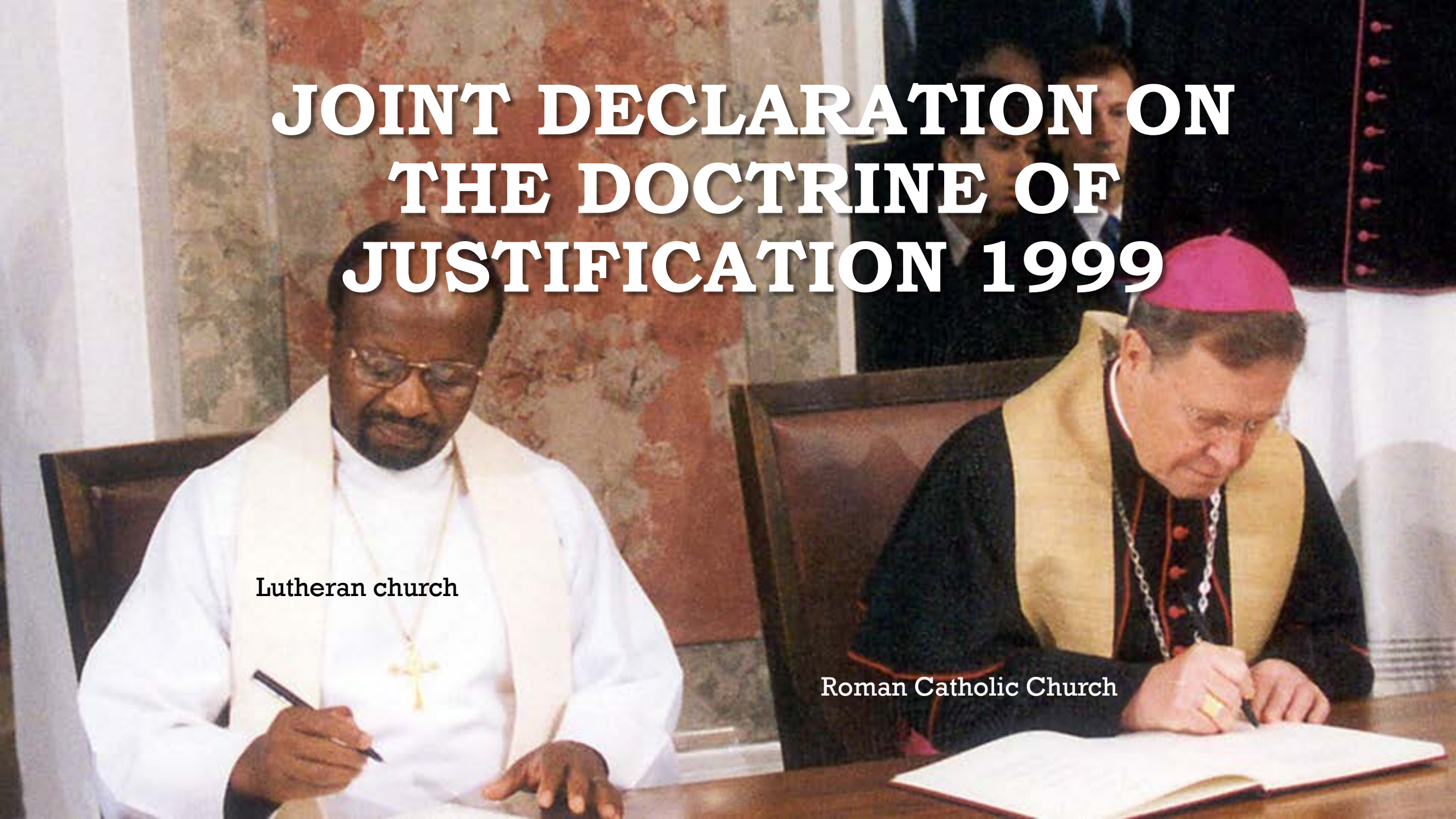


Understand that apart from Christ you can do nothing...

# JOINT DECLARATION ON THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION 1999

Lutheran church

Roman Catholic Church



## LUTHERAN POSITION

We confess together that good works—a Christian life lived in faith, hope and love—follow justification and are its fruits. When the justified live in Christ and act in the grace they receive, they bring forth, in biblical terms, good fruit

## CATHOLIC POSITION

37. When Catholics affirm the “meritorious” character of good works, they wish to say that, according to the biblical witness, a reward in heaven is promised to these works. Their intention is to emphasize the responsibility of persons for their actions, not to contest the character of those works as gifts, or far less to deny that justification always remains the unmerited gift of grace.

# TRUE FAITH IS EVIDENCED BY WORKS

Romans 1:4-6 Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

## **TURE FAITH IS EVIDENCED BY WORKS**

Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.